



NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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Statement from Dr. Anthony Hamlet on the Collective Bargaining Agreement Approved by the School Board and Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania April 18, 2018– After 19 months of in-depth discussions and often challenging negotiations, I am pleased to say that the Pittsburgh Public Schools and the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers (PFT) have successfully reached a three-year contract that allows us to move forward as a district for the benefit of our most important constituents: our students.

When we began this process so many months ago, we had different ideas on several details, yet shared a common goal: to create a contract that is fair to all – taxpayers, teachers, the District, the community – but, above all, places the students at the very top of that list. It took some time to get there, but this agreement does just that.

As with any negotiation, there was give and take on both sides. Teachers will get a wage package that makes our District more competitive for new hires and in retaining talent, as well as a formidable health insurance and benefits plan. The new contract also addresses teachers’ concerns with early childhood educators as much as possible given the limitations of this grant-funded program.

The District addressed student-based concerns related to teacher churn and the ability of principals to assign teachers to classrooms where they are most likely to create meaningful, positive outcomes for all our children, while still creating mechanisms for taking into account teacher preferences for classroom assignments as well as a fair appeals process.

As we look ahead to the rest of this school year and beyond, I would like to express my deepest respect for our talented, dedicated teaching faculty and PFT represented staff. I look forward to moving into the next phases of our District’s strategic plan, [“Expect Great Things.”](#) Created after engagement with more than 3,500 people, including teachers, parents, and other District stakeholders, this plan serves as our roadmap for achieving better outcomes for our students. I look forward to meeting these goals together with teachers in a collaborative spirit that sets a positive example for students and effects true and positive change in their futures.

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